THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 19th March 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—INFORMATION *RE* CHIEF MINISTER'S ILLNESS.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, I seek your indulgence for a few seconds. We are anxious to know about the illness of our Chief Minister. We would like to have the latest news. Will the Leader of the House be pleased to give us some reassuring news? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is nothing further to report. He continues to make satisfactory progress."

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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STARRED QUESTIONS.

Inadequate accommodation in the Government Hospital, Tellicherry.

* 253 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that patients are being accommodated on the floor in the Government Hospital, Tellicherry, for want of other accommodation and beds ; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) There is a proposal for constructing additional wards in the hospital."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, may I know what the bed strength of the hospital is and what the number of in-patients in the hospital now is."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the bed strength is 88. The daily average number is about 174."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" From that figure, it is fairly clear that they are not in-patients, but out-patients or verandah patients. In view of this, may I request the Government to put up semi-permanent or temporary structures immediately, pending construction of permanent structures which we know is a matter which will take a few years for consideration? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is not the usual practice to put up temporary structures. I have been saying on the floor of the House almost every day that the number of patients is much in excess of the sanctioned bed strength in almost all hospitals all over the State."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" கனம் முதல் அமைச்சர் ஏற்கனவே P.W.D.ஐ ‘ Enemy No. 2 ’ என்று கூறியிருக்கிறார்கள். வழக்கமாக கட்டிடங்கள் கட்டுவதற்கு அனேக நாட்களோ, வருஷங்களோ பிடிப்பதினால், உடனடியாக கீற்றுக் கொட்டாய்கள் போட்டு அங்கு இருக்கும் வியாதியஸ்தர்களுக்கு வசதி அளிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" To put up kutcha structures is not economical in the long run, Sir."

Cross-words competition.

* 254 Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. Parthasarathy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have taken satistics as to the number of crossword and similar competitions awarding cash prizes, conducted in the State?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that these crossword puzzles that are conducted in this State as also those conducted in other States and which are coming into this State are not properly conducted and that the people are being cheated by many of the organizations running these crossword puzzles, will the Government come forward to ban these crossword puzzles in this State and also consider my suggestion to the Government to run a State lottery, so that there may be an out-let to the people's money? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, regarding the first part of the question, I may state that this Government and the Central Government are considering what has to be done in the matter. Regarding individual cases, we have given instructions to prosecute the persons concerned where there is malpractice and where a prosecution will lie."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" ക്രോസ്‌വേഡ് കാംപറ്റിഷൻ ചീട്ടുകളിയെക്കാളും പൈസകളയുന്ന ഒരേർപ്പാടായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചെറിയ കുട്ടികൾപോലും ഇതിൽപ്പെട്ടു പൈസകളയുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇതിനെ തടയാൻ ഗവർമ്മേണ്ട് അടിയന്തിരമായ നടപടി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, the Government are trying their level best to expedite the matter."

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI :—" Sir, I want to know whether the Government will consider the licensing of these crossword